

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Current detection methods for PrP^C and PrP^{SC} rely on polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies which recognize both forms of PrP. Most antibodies in the prior art to date are directed against linear epitopes which are present in both denatured PrP^C and PrP^{SC}. In order to distinguish between PrP^C and PrP^{SC} it is therefore necessary to utilize a procedure involving protease treatment followed by immunodetection on Western blots. While PrP^C is degraded by proteolysis, PrP^{SC} is largely resistant to proteolysis and gives a signature set of undigestable products PrP27-31 which can then be detected by immunodetection. Since these antibodies only recognize denatured forms of PrP, they can only be used to detect PrP under denaturing conditions such as those used for immunohistology or to detect PrP in extracts from various tissues or fluids. In order to carry out assays for native forms of PrP^C and PrP^{SC}, it is necessary to develop ligands which will selectively recognize the respective forms of these proteins.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The H3 heterodimer construct (Fig. 4B) was conjugated to keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH) and to bovine serum albumin, as described in Example 1A. The KLH-polypeptide conjugate in the presence of Freund's adjuvant was injected into rabbits according to the procedure outlined in Example 1B. Each test animal received a first injection of the KLH-polypeptide in Freunds's Complete adjuvant, followed two weeks later with a second injection of the KLH-polypeptide conjugate in Freund's Incomplete adjuvant. Two weeks after the second injection, the serum antibody titer was determined using ELISA, as described in Example 1C.

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

Sub C1

1. (Amended) A coiled-coil polypeptide composition, comprising a template of the form $(ab_icdefg)_n$, where $i=1,2,\dots,n$, and n is at least three, a and d are amino acids selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, phenylalanine, methionine, tyrosine, and derivatives thereof, and the sequence formed by the positions $(b_icdefg)_n$ is a sequence of amino acids from a solvent-accessible region of an epitope from a selected protein, where said region is not in a coiled-coil conformation in its native state.

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